

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) In a mat that is made up of a sheet- or plate-like member having a predetermined thickness and is laid on a floor surface, an elastic floor mat, characterized in that said mat has widthwise left- and right-side upper surfaces being in the form of relatively hard edge portions (4) having surfaces gradually descending in a predetermined width toward outer edges of the mat, and a belt-like central portion having a predetermined width forms, at the inner side of said edge portions (4), an elastic portion having a uniform thickness or height corresponding to the thickness of the inner ends of said edge portions (4) and also being softer in elasticity than said edge portions (4).
2. (Original) The elastic floor mat according to claim 1, wherein said mat has a support mat (1) having, at the surface or back surface side between the edge portions (4) at the opposite sides, a receiving portion (3) being in the form of a belt-like recess portion, and a belt-like elastic mat (2) received in said receiving portion (3), and said elastic mat (2) forms the elastic portion.
3. (Original) The elastic floor mat according to claim 2, wherein the support mat (1) has, at the back surface side, the receiving portion (3), in which case, said support mat (1) is made up of a transparent or semi-transparent member, and has, between the elastic mat (2) received in the receiving portion (3) and the support mat (1), a display portion (10) capable of being seen through the surface side.
4. (Original) The elastic floor mat according to claim 2, wherein the elastic mat (2) is fixed to the inside of the receiving portion (3) by bonding.
5. (Original) The elastic floor mat according to claim 2, wherein a structure of connecting, for extensible arrangement, a plurality of elastic floor mats together at the front and rear ends specified as longitudinal ends is employed, provided that joints of joint portions of the support mats (1) and the elastic mats (2) are located in misalignment by a predetermined size into the form of staggered layers not to overlap each other as viewed in plan.

6. (Original) In a mat that is made up of a sheet- or plate-like member having a predetermined thickness and is laid on a floor surface, an elastic floor mat characterized in that said mat has widthwise left- and right-side end upper surfaces being in the form of relatively hard edge portions (4) having inclined surfaces gradually descending in a predetermined width toward outer edges of the mat, a belt-like central portion having a predetermined width forms, at the inner side of said edge portions (4), an elastic portion (2') having a uniform thickness or height corresponding to the thickness of inner ends of said edge portions (4) and being softer in elasticity than said edge portions (4), and said elastic portion (2') is composed of an installation surface-side space portion (3') being in the form of an upward recess portion having a predetermined depth, and a large number of projections (33) contained in downwardly projecting arrangement in said space portion (3') and having lower surfaces in elastically contact with the floor surface.

7. (Original) The elastic floor mat according to claim 6, wherein circumference surfaces of said projections (33) are in the form of tapered or curbed surfaces so as to be tapered toward the grounding surface side.

8. (Currently amended) The elastic floor mat according to claim 6-~~or 7~~, wherein the grounding surfaces of said projections (33) are in the form of upwardly curbed recess-like suction surfaces (34).

9. (Currently amended) The elastic floor mat according to claim 6-~~or 7~~, wherein said mat has, at one or both of the front and rear ends of the elastic portion (2'), end wall portions (36) being equal in height with said projections (33), and said end wall portions (36) are in the form of indented portions ensuring that the ends of the mats laid in mutually adjacent arrangement are fitted to each other in mutual engagement.

10. (Currently amended) The elastic floor mat according to claim 1,~~2, 6, or 7~~, wherein the upper surface of at least one of the front and rear ends of the elastic floor mat is in the form of an end edge portion (12) having a gradually descending inclined surface.

11. (Currently amended) The elastic floor mat according to claim 1,~~2, 6, or 7~~, wherein the elastic floor mat has, on the surface exposed to the outside, non-slip (5) being in the form of a surface having minute irregularities.

12. (Currently amended) The elastic floor mat according to claim 1,~~2, 6, or 7~~, wherein the elastic floor mat is applicable as a floor guide mat that has, at the surface or installation surface side, or in a section, a guide portion (11) adaptable to guide walkers or users inclusive of wheelchair users by taking advantage of electromagnetic or magnetic force in relation to a direction of forward stepping.